Shoreline
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Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture at Salisbury State University

In Small Things Forgotten But Saved:

The Benjamin Lankford Collection Across Generations

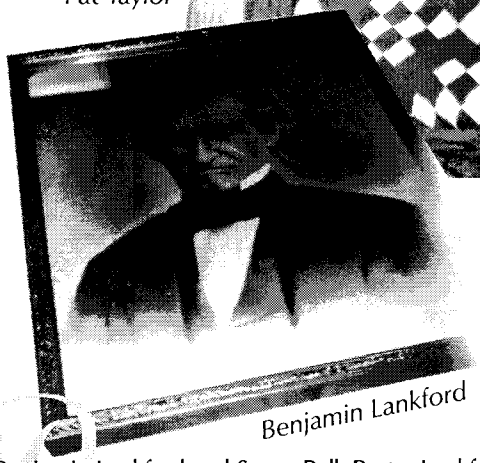
by Cres Long

The Nabb Research Center is the proud recipient of its most comprehensive collection to date, the Benjamin Lankford Collection, assembled by Mary Suzanne Lankford Duncan, grandmother of donor Suzanne Lankford Duncan of Olney, MD. The Center received this enormous collection in two sections. Duncan learned of the Nabb Research Center from Center donor Wilmer O. "Bill" Lankford of Princess Anne. When depositing the initial section of the collection at the Center in March, Duncan was so impressed with our facility and our mission that she later donated the voluminous 19th century correspondence, which we are integrating with the initial donation. All Center staff has been working furiously to inventory and catalogue this magnificent collection, spanning six generations of one of the oldest families on the Peninsula. An exhibit entitled "In Small Things Forgotten But Saved: The Benjamin Lankford Collection Across Generations" is being prepared for SSU's 75th anniversary celebration on September 23, featuring this collection, which comprises original land grants, deeds, correspondence, coverlets, identified photographs, mementos and ephemera from an extended family based on the tract Galloway near Crisfield. The bulk of the collection centers on twelve time Maryland Senator Benjamin Lankford and his wife Susan Polk Porter Lankford.

Cres Long

Duncan (right) and Miller examine the new acquisitions

Rebecca Miller (right) and Pat Taylor



Benjamin Lankford

Director of Nabb Research Center Rebecca Miller with Suzanne Duncan, donor of Lankford Collection

Benjamin Lankford and Susan Polk Porter Lankford, both of Somerset County, were an aspiring couple situated near the upper level of 19th century Lower Shore society. Benjamin served in the Maryland General Assembly from the 1830s through the 1870s representing Somerset County and also serving a number of terms as the Speaker of the House of Delegates. As a prominent planter and political leader, as well as the patriarch of a large family, Benjamin achieved considerable status in the county as well as the state. Susan's role is at first glance more elusive. The mother of 10 and the grandmother of sundry children, her responsibilities as the family leader are evident. At the same time, however, Susan Lankford also served as the manager of the family farm while Benjamin was in Annapolis during the General Assembly sessions. Letters between Susan and Benjamin clearly indicate his reliance on her judgment and her authority to maintain their property. Through their efforts they accumulated a large amount of land and came to represent the planter class of 19th century Delmarva.

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Tuesday - Friday 9:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Saturday 9 a.m. - 2 p.m.
Closings
September 2, 4, 21 & November 23, 24, 2000

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People

Our Valuable Volunteers

There are individuals who generously volunteer of their time and skills to continuously assist the Nabb Research Center in our multitude of tasks necessary to keep the Center humming along. By now the names should be familiar: Monday afternoon genealogist Fay Brooks, who diligently researches our queries, resulting in a lot of good will and $1,800 of fee income to boot; Monday night 5-9 p.m. volunteers, the Hon. Lloyd and Lucy Whitehead, Barbara Trader Esq., board members Jeff Pilchard Esq. and Pat Taylor; Tuesday mornings, without fail, new board secretary Polly Batchelder researches and organizes collections; thrice weekly Dr. Ellaline Roy-MacCaulay has been invaluable in the preliminary sorting of new collections and particularly in the reorganization of the old Gunby family collection into a useable format; weekly volunteer Catherine Alvaro sorts collections; monthly volunteer Jean Woolston reorganized the vast collection of William H. Wroten; Jim Trader has written articles for our newsletter and is always on hand to lend research assistance (with special attention to cemeteries!). Former board member Marianne Scarborough finds ways to lend a hand when she's in town. Our academic-year graduate student, Aaron Horner, has come in a number of times to help us on his summer off from his studies but while working full-time (now that's dedication!).

Special mention is needed of board member and almost daily volunteer Pat Taylor, without whom we surely would be lost–it's as if we have another staff person. Board members Tom Fooks and Miles Barnes have invested an inordinate amount of time and money working on the Center's strategic marketing initiative, which involves half a dozen consultants. Last, but certainly not least in our gratitude, founder and board member G. Ray Thompson, who is always on hand to assist in a range of activities from giving talks on our behalf to moving boxes. To all of our valuable volunteers, a sincere thanks from the board, director and staff of the Nabb Research Center.

In Small Things Forgotten But Saved

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The Benjamin Lankford Collection comprises a rich assemblage of family correspondence, business papers, original land records and a multitude of family photographs. With documents dating from the 17th through the 20th centuries, the Lankford Collection encompasses an extended period of American history. Although much of the material pertains to life on the Eastern Shore of Maryland and Virginia, many items reflect historical trends that developed on a national scale. The correspondence in particular reveals the deeply personal side of a number of 19th century historical processes. For instance, the disruption of family life that occurred when family members migrated to the West is plainly evident in many of the Lankford family letters. Likewise, the effort to maintain a family farm in the years leading up to and following the American Civil War and the struggle to maintain a sense of family cohesion during times of change are also prevalent themes.

The Lankford Collection offers a number of research possibilities. Students or scholars interested in 19th century family relationships, agriculture, migration experiences or a number of women's history issues will find extensive material in the collection. The letters between the Lankfords and their children and grandchildren offer a rich look at the texture of life on the Eastern Shore. Buried in what might first appear to be strictly family matters are subtle hints at the social fabric of historical Delmarva. Covering topics as diverse as railroads on the Shore, ship building, courtship and religion, the family letters, in conjunction with other items from the collection, paint vivid pictures of a family adapting to change on local and national levels.

The Benjamin Lankford Collection is exactly the sort of manuscript material that will enrich the Nabb Center's archival holdings. While the Lankford papers are exceptional in their scope, any family letters or business records provide a vital source for historical and genealogical research. What may appear to be uninteresting details of family business often hold some of the most valuable material that a social historian may hope to find. Sources such as those in the Lankford Collection provide anecdotal evidence that is often missing from public census or county records. As the Nabb Center continues to accumulate manuscript sources like the Lankford papers its stature as a significant historical repository will undoubtedly grow.

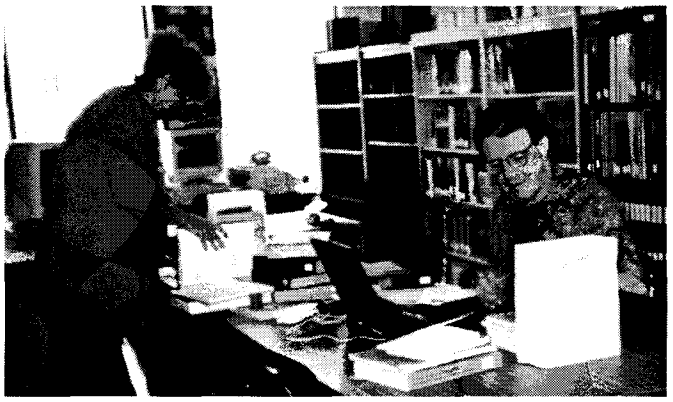
Miller Speaks At GHOTES

For a week in June the Genealogy and History of the Eastern Shore (GHOTES) helda conference based in Exmore, VA, convened by organizer Barbara Goffigon Cox of San Clemente, CA, to examine the history of the Eastern Shore of Virginia. GHOTES was formed on the Internet in 1996, and its members are interested in Eastern Shore history, with most having genealogical ties to the area.

Over 100 participants gathered from across the nation–California, Colorado, Nevada, Minnesota, Tennessee, Florida, New Hampshire–to participate in presentations and workshops presented by local historians, as well as conducting research at the local courthouses, the Eastern Shore Public Library and the Nabb Research Center. Among those attending the conference were Nabb Research Center board members, B. Miles Barnes, Jean Mihalyka and Frances Latimer.

Director Becky Miller lectured on "Virginia or Maryland? Border Shifts and Controversies, With Special Attention to the Current Location of Land and Other Records." By way of introduction, Cox presented Miller as a native Marylander who "crossed the fence" to speak to the group, with Miller responding, "There is no fence!" At that, Miller launched into the concept that the Peninsula was settled by Virginians and that all claiming heritage on lower Delmarva were "one people" and that the history of what comprises the parts of three states were merely political boundaries. In her presentation, Miller stressed the misunderstanding of the settlement of old Somerset County, MD, due to early historians' research only in the records of Maryland, stating that the accurate history will only be discerned by delving into the primary records of both Maryland and Virginia. Miller covered the early settlement of both Virginia and Maryland, the English Civil War, the Interregnum and how these events affected the creation of Somerset County.

The first conference of GHOTES was held in 1997 and the next will likely be held in 2003.



Laura Brown and James Wilson from Oxnard, CA visited in June.

Shore Researcher Passes

Nabb Research Center member and noted Eastern Shore family historian Matthew Montgomery Wise, Ph.D., passed away on June 12 this year. Although he was born in Washington, D.C., Wise was the great-grandson of Thomas G. Ward of Manokin, Somerset County, who left the county prior to his marriage in 1857.

Wise, a retired professor of English and department chair at Roanoke College and resident of Salem, VA, was compiler of two editions of *The Boston Family of Maryland* and *The Littleton Heritage Some American Descendants of Col. Nathaniel Littleton (1605-1654) of Northampton County, VA, and His Royal Forebears.* His education served him well for these publications: B.A., George Washington University (1944); M.A. George Washington University (1946); Ph.D. Columbia University (1955). Prior to his appointment at Roanoke College, Wise taught at George Washington and Brown University.

Through his comprehensive and meticulous research for his publications, Wise and his wife Nancy interviewed many descendants of the early settlers of the Eastern Shore, thus making a host of friends and acquaintances in the local area and beyond. Matt and Nancy's annual visits were always anticipated by area friends and Center supporters: Tom Fooks, Becky Miller and MaryBeth Long, as well as late Center benefactor, Grace Atkinson Morris.

At the time of his passing, Wise was at work on his latest publication concerning the Long family, on which he had researched some 30 years and had planned for publication during the past 15 years. The Nabb Research Center is the repository for Wise's collection of research materials from *The Boston Family of Maryland* and it is anticipated we will receive the research notes from *The Littleton Heritage* and the Long family to add to his collection.

Zipser Establishes Student Prize At Nabb Center

Mrs. Marelyn W. Zipser of Salt Lake City, UT, has donated $10,000 to the Nabb Research Center for the creation of a $500 student history prize to be known as the Miles-Stevenson Research Prize, in memory of the donor's grandparents, Roger Atwood Miles and Arintha May Stevenson who were born in Somerset County. It is planned that the annual prize will be awarded to the best student research paper which will be a biographical sketch on any one of a number of selected individuals. The paper requirements will include transcription of the individual's inventory and will. Primary sources such as the various types of land and court records should be researched to glean new information about the life of the individual. Submissions must display a commitment to scholarship, historical accuracy and use of primary resources in the interpretation of the life of the subject of the biography.

Librarian Moves To Maine

With our regret but with best wishes, the staff bid adieu to our librarian, Rebecca Francis, whose last day with us was July 14. Rebecca's husband, David, employed by SSU in the Webmaster's office, accepted an appointment to Bowdoin College. Rebecca held a Master's in Library Science and provided the Center with professional cataloging of our monographs to OCLC and original cataloging of some of our archival holdings.

In the short time Rebecca was a member of our staff, she meticulously cataloged over 1,300 books. Rebecca will be greatly missed, and we wish the couple well in their new endeavor.

Spotlight on Collections

Wroten Collection Featured on Web Site

If you haven't checked out the Nabb Research Center's Web site (http://nabbhistory.ssu.edu/) recently, be sure to do so as we have greatly added to the representation of our holdings. Site selections are selected by Becky Miller and beautifully choreographed by the Center's personal Webmaster, Iris Powell. In honor of William Harvey Wroten Jr., Ph.D., we have instituted a monthly series of writings by Dr. Wroten from his collection at the Nabb Research Center, with the addition of graphics by the Center. The inaugural article is entitled, "Harriet Tubman - A Shore Moses."

From the William H. Wroten Jr. Collection, the Nabb Research Center presents the Delmarva Heritage Series, articles written by Wroten, the respected authority on Eastern Shore history and customs. A native son of Cambridge, MD, Wroten pursued his education by obtaining a B.A. from Western Kentucky University, M.A. from University of Maryland and Ph.D. from University of Colorado. In 1955, Wroten was hired as a professor of history at then Salisbury State Teacher's College, serving as chair of the Department of History until his retirement from Salisbury State University in 1980. During his career, Wroten also served as director of graduate studies at SSU, helped to establish the Somerset County Historical Society and served as president of the Wicomico County Historical Society and the Dorchester County Historical Society. In addition, Wroten was a contributor to several publications, including *Beach Magazine, The Eastern Shore Heartland, The Salisbury Times*, as well as authoring the book, *Assateague*.

Monograph and Microfilm Accessions

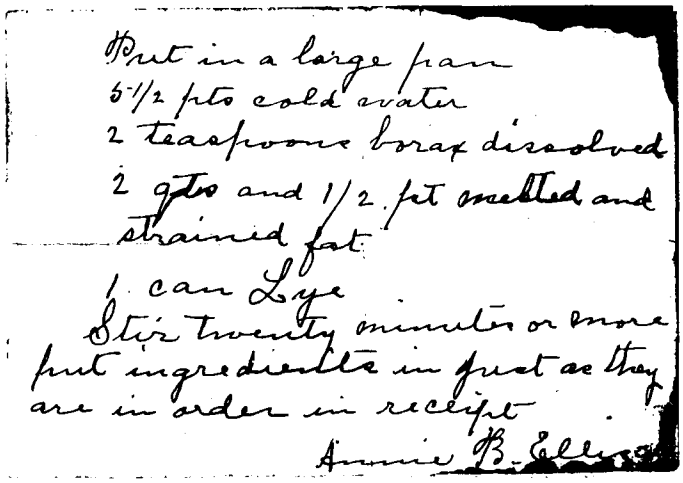
As many of our patrons may know, we usually have a section in the *Shoreline* quarterly newsletter in which we list books and microfilm we have acquired since our previous edition. When this edition's listing was made it was realized that we had approximately **250** new additions to our library! It was decided that since this list alone would take several pages to print; we will post these new acquisitions onto our Web site http://nabbhistory.edu.ssu/ instead of printing them here. We will also have a list available at our check-in desk at the Nabb Research Center. These books and microfilms are a combination of new purchases and gifts from a variety of donors. As such, a few may be duplicates of books already on hand; but most are entirely new additions to our library collection. We are always reviewing publishers' lists in order to obtain any new volumes of interest to our area, as well as searching for out-of-print books that are pertinent. It's also important to note that we are expanding our holdings beyond the normal tri-state area in order to allow our researchers to follow their ancestors elsewhere on the shore and into states that were along the emigration trails. Other volumes cover a variety of historical research topics. We hope many of you will be able to visit us soon to take advantage of our expanded selection.

Microfilm

St. Paul's Church Vestry Records 1694-1819 - Queen Anne and Talbot counties
Republican Star Easton, MD (assorted dated 1804-1817)
Republican Star Easton, MD, January 3, 1832 - June 12, 1832
Star Democrat collection (September 30, 1974 - February 14, 1977)
Queen Anne & Talbot , St. Paul's Church Vestry Records 1694-1819
Talbot County 1798 (Federal Direct Act) 1-9
Talbot County, MD, Index to Births, Marriages & Deaths, St. Peter's Parish Reg. 1681-1806
Talbot County, MD, Marriage Licenses St. Michaels Parish Record and Index 1738-1810
Delaware:
- Orphan's Court - Court Dockets Libers A-W 1770-1853
- Orphan's Court - Court Docket Index 1737-1847
- Will Books Libers L-11 to AM-38 1852-1949
- Guardian Bond Books 1774-1867
- Annual Valuations 1835-1917
- Guardian Accounts A-Z

Census

1800 Delaware, entire state
1810 Delaware, entire state
1820 Delaware, entire state
1830 Virginia, Northampton & various counties
1910 Delaware, Sussex County


Put in a large pan
6-1/2 pts cold water
2 teaspoons borax dissolved
2 qts and 1/2 pt melted and strained fat
1 can Lye
Stir twenty minutes or more
put ingredients in just as they are in order in receipt
Annie B. Ellis

Soap recipe found and donated by Henrietta Moore.

Carolyn J. Sterling of Nolansville, TX, and Becky Miller examine a reprint of 1898 Sterling genealogy.

Down in Old Worcester

How Berlin Looks–Its Early History and Present Growth

Staff Correspondence of the Morning News

Berlin, MD, Jan. 6.–When certain early settlers, some 200 years since, first took up their abode amid the sand and pines of Worcester County, they established themselves at Trappe, a point about three miles from here. This was the beginning of Berlin. Why the settlement was removed to this place no one explains. Since then Berlin has grown to the present village of narrow streets and unexpected corners. Up-countrymen have a way of calling the place Ber*lin* as if it had been named the capital of Prussia; but there is reason to believe that the local pronunciation, *Ber*lin is correct; for there is a dim tradition that the tract upon which the town stands was originally patented to an Englishman named Burleigh, and the present spelling of the town's name is likely a corruption. The town has now about 11,0000 inhabitants; four churches–two Methodists, the Northern and Southern, an Episcopalian and a Presbyterian; several saw mills and the cannery of Dilworth, Purnell; Dirickson & Co.; a well managed public school, with several departments; and the usual number of shops and like business establishments.

Neither the Episcopal nor the Presbyterian Church building here possesses the interest for antiquarians that so many Eastern Shore churches do, the former having been built in 1829, and the latter, from all appearances, at a considerably later date. This parish, however, is a very ancient one, as such things go, and old St. Martin's Church, the predecessor of the present building, still stands in the country six miles from here having been a place of worship for more than a century and a quarter. It is a plain old structure, built of bricks imported from England. About it are the graves of the parishioners for generations back, and within the brick floor and high-backed pews testify to its ancient date. Even this cannot be the earliest church building of St. Martin's parish, for it is pretty well established that the sacramental service of the parish was a gift from Queen Anne. This service, made of rich and massive silver, is still in use, it being the pious duty of certain good ladies of the parish to keep it ever bright.

Buckingham Academy is one of the most interesting institutions of the kind on the Eastern Shore. For several generations past the young men of the neighborhood have here been prepared for college. The late Judge John R. Franklin, of Snow Hill, was educated here as was his relative, State Senator Littleton P. Franklin, and Col. Lemuel Showell, president of the Eastern Shore railroad, and the Hon. John W. Covington, of this county, representative-elect from this Congressional district. E.D. Martin, Esq., an Eastern Shoreman, lately admitted to the Worcester County bar, is now principal of the boy's department of the academy. It has 70 pupils, and the girl's department, called the Seminary, has a like number.

There are four teachers in the two schools. Within a year or two, pupils of the boy's department have entered college as high as the sophomore year, and now the institution has 14 representatives in various Eastern and Southern colleges. Just at the edge of the village stands an old house, now used as a barn, that is said to be the birth place of Commodore Decatur, and on the Robins farm, not far from here, strangers are still shown the graves of Goff and Whaley, the rejicide judges of Charles I. There is some doubt as to whether Goff was really buried here, but tradition strongly points to Judge Whaley as the founder of Whaleyville, a small station on the railroad here, and there are many of the name still living in this neighborhood.

Whenever you see the letters "R" and "P" in the initials of a Worcester countian's name you may set it down that they stand for Robins and Purnell. Seven brothers of the latter family settled in this county in 1665 and it is rather an understatement to say that their descendants are now 70 times seven. Their name is legion and it may also be remarked that their name *Pur*nell, according to local pronunciation, though up-country-men insist upon accenting the last syllable.

The foregoing article, a clipping in a ledger cum scrapbook in the Edward Hammond Collection, likely appeared in a local newspaper 1880-1890. Judge John Ranklin Franklin (1820-1878) was instrumental in having a railroad built from the Delaware Line through central Worcester County with terminum in Franklin City, named to memorialize the part played by the judge in forming the railroad. Lemuel Showell III (1823-1902) also played an integral part in formation of the railroad, which led to the development of the seaside resort, Ocean City. The Worcester County community of St. Martins was renamed to Showell in honor of Col. Showell.

Hammond and Jacob Add to Collections

Local Worcester County attorney and historian Edward Hammond recently added a number of interesting items to his collection at the Nabb Research Center. The article, "Down In Worcester," featured in this edition of *Shoreline* was found in an old ledger cum scrapbook donated by Hammond. The additions also included a number of old Bibles, featuring the families of Selby and Martin (1814), Upshur (1839), Warrington (1812), Porter (1819); as well as original day books and ledgers (1843 & c. 1834-36); pre-revolutionary Franklin family New Testament; *A Greek-English Lexicon* (1859); Morell, Thomas, *An Abridgment of Ainsworth's Dictionary, English and Latin* (owned by John L. Robins, 1870); Winchester, Paul, *Men of Maryland Since the Civil War, Vol. I* (1923); Sprague, William B., *Annals of the American Presbyterian Pulpit; or Commemorative Notices of Distinguished Clergymen of the Presbyterian Church in the United States* (1855). In the past five years, Hammond has donated a number of items to the Nabb Research Center and we thank him for his continuing donations to our growing facility.

Retired attorney and charter Nabb Research Center board member, John Jacob Jr., has also been steadily adding to his collection. Recent additions include Semmes, Raphael, *Crime and Punishment in Early Maryland* (1938); *First Class Book of History* (c. 1868); Weems, M.L., *The Life of George Washington; With Curious Anecdotes* (1813); Mawe, Thomas, Abercrombie, John, *Every Man his Own Gardner* (1797) [inscribed by Benjamin Evans, January 1800]; Baldwin, Thomas, *A New and Complete Gazetteer of the United States giving a Full and Comprehensive Review of the Present Condition, Industry and Resources of the American Confederacy* (1800) [cover inscribed Alex. Hamilton Bayly March 3, 1855] [see http://nabbhistory.ssu/ for excerpts]; Watts, Joseph T., *The Rise and Progress of Maryland Baptists;* Bailyn, Bernard, *Voyagers to the West A Passage in the Peopling of America on the Eve of Revolution;* and McSherry, James, *History of Maryland; From It's First Settlement in 1634 to the Year 1848.*

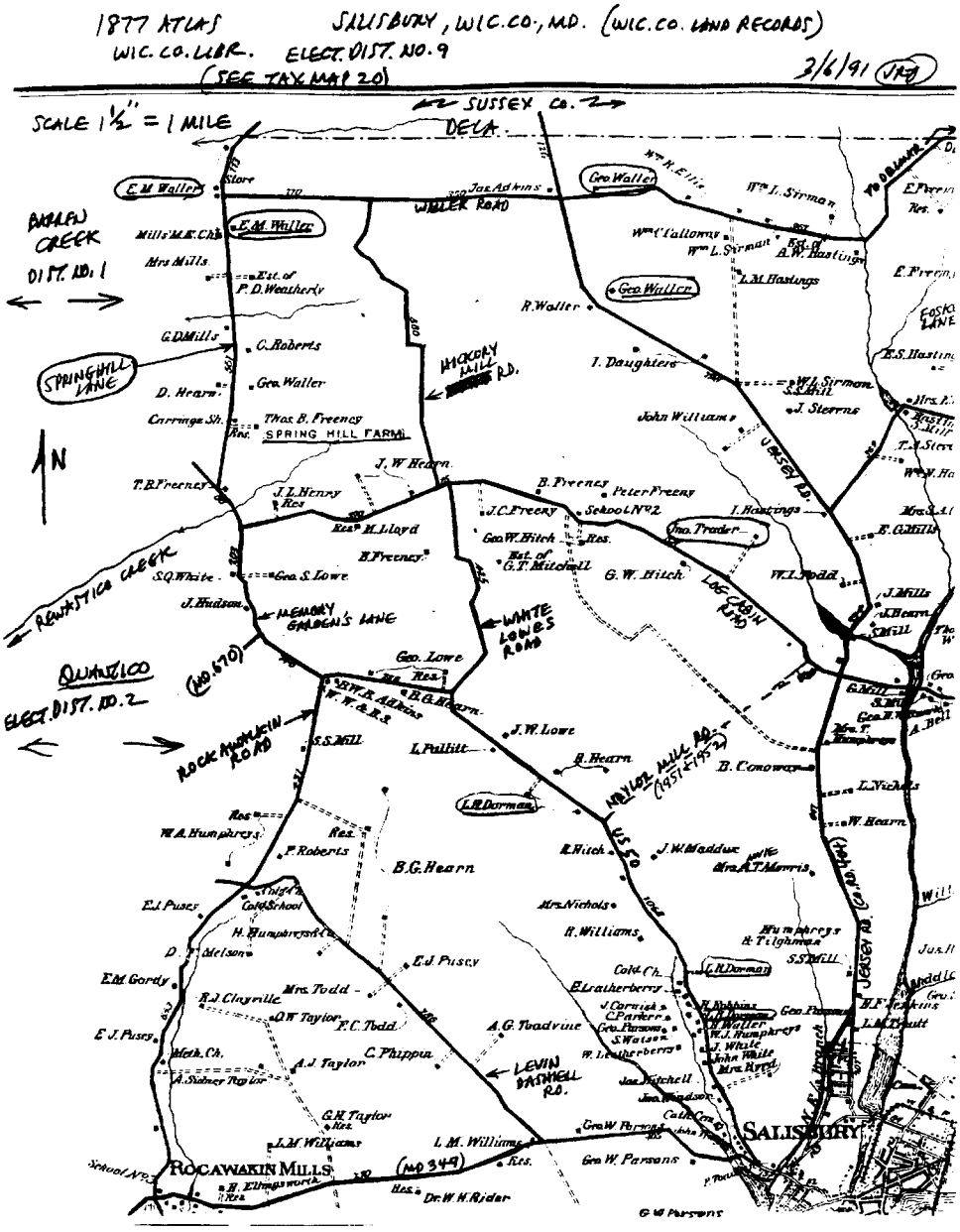
The Dormans of Virginia and Maryland

by James R. Trader

In the 1997 study of the Nutter's Neck area of Wicomico County, David G. Nutter, notes in the 1640s, John and Sarah Dorman, residents of the old Plantation Creek area of Northampton County, VA; John dying c. 1657 and remarriage of wife Sarah, and with children Mary (b.c. 1665), John and Matthew as minors under the guardianship of John Custis and wife until the age of maturity. Christopher Nutter, b.c. 1662, married Mary Dorman and lived on "Nutter's Purchase" on the north side of the Manokin River in Somerset County, MD, and Mary's brothers Matthew and John Dorman Jr. living in "Nutter's Neck" in the "Red House" or "Dorman Place," site 5 on his map of the area.

Clayton Torrence records in 1671 a John Dorman, cooper and grand juryman, living on the north side of the Manokin River on land from Goose Creek to the river headwaters, and a John Dorman marrying Sarah Percell on 31 December 1672, and Matthew Dorman taking Phillipa Gillman as his wife on 19 August 1672. Edward Stevens operated "Steven's Ferry" from "Blake's Hope" on the north of the Pocomoke River to the south side near present Pocomoke City and in his 1715 will mentions daughter Cattron (Catherine) Dormand.

In the "Coventry Parish Records", 1736-1828, by Helen B. Clary, appears the marriages of John Dorman and Catherine Tilman on 1 January 1750, of Samuel and Rachel Tilghman on 23 December 1743, of Levin Dorman and Leah Dorman on 10 May 1772, and of James Dorman and Tabitha Wellis on 13 September 1781. Also recorded are the births of John Dorman on 11 January 1756, of John and Catherine Dorman, of Zadok on 27 February, 1762 of John and Catherine, of Susannah Dorman on 20 July 1782, of James and Tabitha, and of Thomas Dorman on 24 March 1773, of Levin and Leah Dorman, of Amelia Dorman on 16 June 1778, of Levin and Leah Dorman, of Anne Dorman on 26 March 1781, of Levin and Leah Dorman, and of Molly Dorman on 9 October 1783, of Levin and Leah Dorman.



"Somerset County Orphan's Court Proceedings," by Rebecca F. Miller, records on 12 October,1784, the appointment of Leah Dorman as guardian of George Dorman, orphan of Matthew deceased and within the age of 14 years, with William Dorman and Robert Dorman as sureties.

The "1798 Federal Direct Tax on Real Property in Somerset County, MD" by Tom Reedy, notes the occupant Planner Pewsey in a one story dwelling house 20' x 18' owned by Levin Dorman on "Dorman's Purchase" and other tracts adjoining John Pollett's land of 485 acres and 80 perches valued at $700. There was no occupant on "Harmsworth" owned by William Smulling, of 149 acres and 120 perches, valued at $360, and other adjacent tracts back in the woods adjoining Levin Dorman's land seven miles from Princess Anne, MD. On the land of Jesse Green, on the back of the described lot was a wood dwelling house 36' x 24', two stories, 17 windows with flush cellar, and old billiard room 32' x 16' with five windows, stables 22' x 22'

and on the same lot a house 20' x 16' under tenure of Levin Dorman, totaling 120 perches and valued at $600. The 1 October 1798, list of slaves in the 19th District of Somerset County, MD, records one slave owned by Levin Dorman.

In 1771 Levin Dorman patented "Dorman's Purchase" of 206 acres in East Princess Anne District 15, in 1783 owned 80 acres of "Chance" in the same district, and in the same district in 1794 patented "Dorman's Conclusion" of 411 acres, 200 acres of which he deeded (Som. Co. deed, Liber T:470; Ser. 040) on 12 May 1810, to Levin Dorman Jr.

In "The Revolutionary Patriots of Worcester and Somerset County, MD, 1775-1783," by Henry C. Peden Jr., John Dorman is a private in the Somerset County militia, Princess Anne Battalion under Capt. John Jones, Princess Anne Company in 1780, a John Dorman is a private in the Worcester County Militia, 6th class, on 15 July 1780, in the Wicomico Battalion of Capt. Philip Quinton's Company, and a Levin Dorman is a private in the Somerset County Militia in 1780, Princess Anne Battalion, Princess Anne Company under Capt. John Jones.

Levin Dorman Jr., born 13 August 1786, in Somerset County, MD, married his first wife Annie Jones Dashiell on 20 November 1810. After the death of Annie, on 9 November 1813, he married Elizabeth (Betsey) Dashiell (28 July, 1795-April 1828), daughter of John Dashiell and his second wife Eleanor Dashiell. From the period of 10 May 1814, until 13 November 1821, Levin was guardian to the orphan William Dashiell. The children of Levin and Elizabeth were Cecelia Eveline Dorman, b.c. 1814, and Levin Robert Wilson Dorman, b.c. 1819, and appear in the 1820 census of Somerset County, District 1, with Levin owning six slaves and two free colored persons.

"Maddux's Luck," was patented on 29 October 1676, by William Maddux, for 410 1/4 acres on the southwest side of the main road (from Salisbury) to Spring Hill Chapel, and Levin Dorman Jr. acquired 170 acres in 1812 and 257 acres in 1827 out of this patent and acquired and sold other land in Somerset County. Henry (Army) Trader came from Accomack County, VA, c.1767 and settled near Salisbury in Somerset County and acquired 147 Acres of "Maddux's Luck" on 28 February 1774, the deed beginning at a stone by the road from Salisbury Town to Spring Hill Chapel in a line between the land of Trader and Benjamin Hearn, a later witness with Hezekiah Maddux to his will. The tract was resurveyed in 1801 as "Hitche's Hard Luck" of 1,256 acres. The Dorman farm, also known as "Cedarhurst" can be found on Wicomico County Tax Map 28, southwest of U.S. 50 and northwest of Naylor Mill Road.

After the death of his second wife, Levin Dorman Jr. married Hetty Johnson on 19 February 1829. Levin died on 12 June 1833, and the inventory of 8 July 1833, by his executor George Parsons of James, appears in Liber JP No. 11: folios 292-295 in Somerset County. Of interest is the shoemaker's bench, his worm and still, farm equipment, carpenter tools, and 94 lights of new window sash.

Levin and Elizabeth are buried in the Dorman Cemetery, the buried gravestones discovered in March 2000, and the grave of Edith Eugenia Dorman, b. 6 March 1850, d. 21 July 1863, believed granddaughter of the marriage of Levin Robert Wilson Dorman and Rachel Waller on 17 June 1845. The overgrown site has been cleaned by the owners, new fencing installed and the broken hand carved gravestones are to be repaired and reinstalled. The 1877 atlas map of Wicomico County, District 9, shows the Dorman farm and neighbors named Pollitt, Hitch and Hearn. Dorman family members played an important role in the history of Salisbury and Wicomico County.

Of personal interest is the birth of my uncle Charles Wesley Porter, son of Levin Andrew Porter and his second wife Mary (Eleanor) Nellie Hatton, on the Dorman farm on 24 April 1900, rented by his father, and to which I took him years ago after finding its location marked by the line of cedar trees along the farm road.

Inventory Presentation at Glen Avenue

by T. Aaron Horner

On the afternoon of May 19, I gave a presentation to the 4th grade class at Glen Avenue Elementary School here in Salisbury about colonial inventories. When I was approached to do this presentation, my first impression was *teach 4th graders about inventories?* I didn't think kids that young could comprehend the meaning of the word "inventory" and what went into them. So much has changed since I was a 4th grader—all I remember was learning about the 50 states. I found out that the students at Glen Avenue had been learning about colonial history this spring. The school had received a grant from the state through its Expedition Learning Outward Bound Program. This program allows teachers to educate students in other areas besides the usual basics of reading, writing and arithmetic. The students had participated in a colonial festival learning about life, food, medicine and entertainment in early America. They even took field trips to Jamestown and Pemberton Park!

Overall, the presentation went well. The students were very enthusiastic and asked a variety of questions. I showed them a number of inventories that included people of all social classes. I pointed out that inventories contain items that we see in everyday life like clothing, furniture, tools and cooking utensils. A Bible (whether or not that particular person could read) was often an important part of everyone's inventory. Animals and slaves (if part of the estate) were also listed. I asked for student input for the terminology of words like "heifer" and "rapier" to see if they recognized words rarely in use today. At the end, I showed them an old cannon ball that had been my grandfather's that now had been passed down to me. Finally, I would like to thank the 4th grade teachers, Jennifer Barnette, Shelly Messick, Becky Webster and Billie Wilson, for their support and preparation for this presentation.

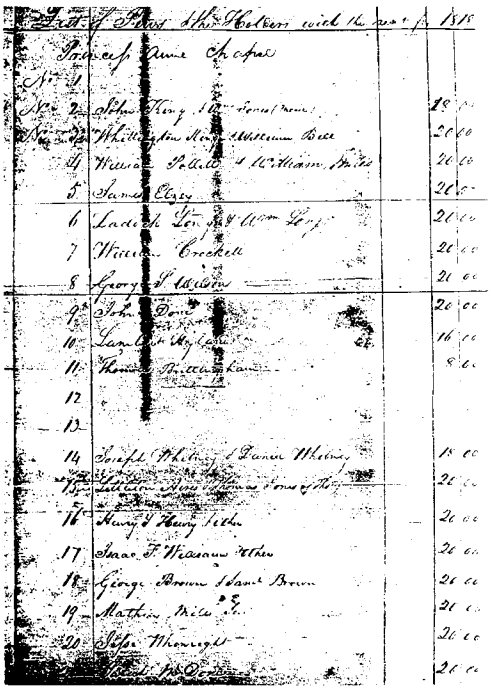
Aaron Horner is a graduate assistant at the Nabb Research Center, assigned the presentation on its behalf.

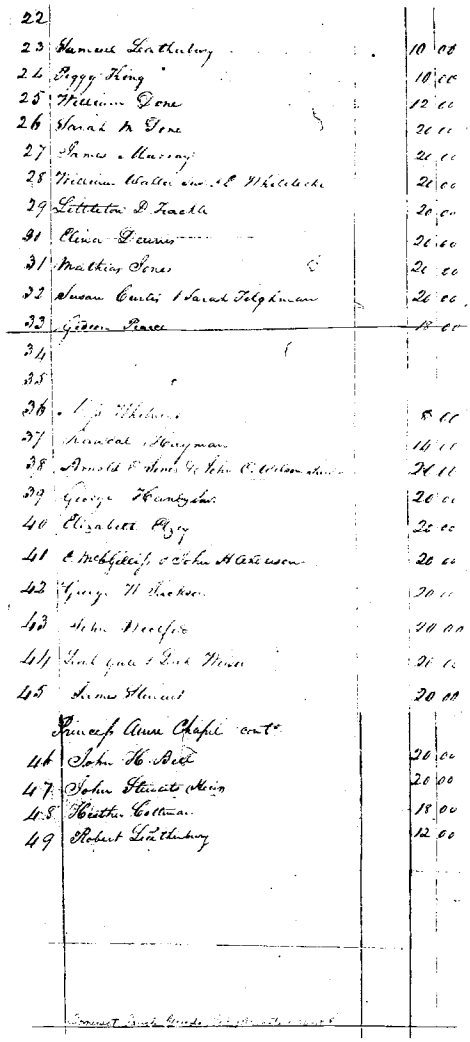
Primary Source Records

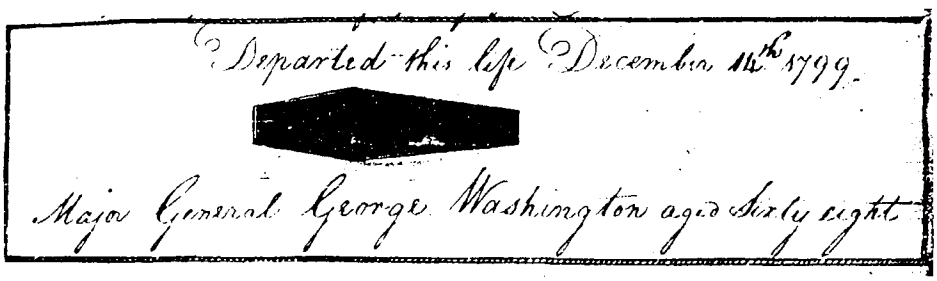
Vestry Books

The 1773 and 1796 pew lists in the recent publication *of Of Ancient and Apostolic Lineage: Somerset Parish 1692-1992* resulted in quite a few inquiries as to the source of the lists and a thirst for more. Pew lists for Somerset Parish are found in the overlooked vestry books for the parish. Everyone researches the birth and death registers for obvious reasons, but few are aware of the vestry (governing body) records. Interesting items such as the notation and illustration concerning the death of George Washington are found in the church records, as well as the notation of deceased subscribers, listed only because they owed pew rent. The Somerset Parish records from the birth and death records have been transcribed by various parties over the years and are widely available, but "there is nothing like the real thing" of viewing the records at the source. These records are part of the Nabb Research Center's microfilm collection.

Following is another pew list from 1818 at the Princess Anne Chapel, now St. Andrew's Episcopal Church.







List of Pews and the Holders with the Rent for 1818
Princess Anne Chapel

No. 1		
No. 2	John King & Wm Jones (Monie)	$18
No. 3	Whittington King & William Bell	$20
No. 4	William Pollitt & William Miles	$20
No. 5	James Elzey	$20
No. 6	Zadock Long & William Long	$20
No. 7	William Crockett	$20
No. 8	George L Wilson	$20
No. 9	John Done	$20
No. 10	Lambert HyLand	$16
No. 11	Thomas Brittingham	$ 8
No. 12		
No. 13		
No. 14	Joseph Whitney & Daniel Whitney	$18
No. 15	Littleton Aires & Thomas Jones (of Tho')	$20
No. 16	Henry L Fleury & others	$20
No. 17	Isaac F. Williams & others	$20
No. 18	George Brown & Sam' Brown	$20
No. 19	Mathias Miles Sen'	$20
No. 20	Jesse Whinright	$20
No. 21	Sarah M Done	$20
No. 22		
No. 23	Samuel Leatherbury	$10
No. 24	Peggy King	$10
No. 25	William Done	$12
No. 26	Sarah M Done	$20
No. 27	James Murray	$20
No. 28	William Waller Sen' & E. Whitelocke	$20
No. 29	Littleton D. Teackle	$20
No. 30	Elinor Dennis	$20
No. 31	Mathias Jones	$20
No. 32	Susan Curtis & Sarah Tilghman	$20
No. 33	Gideon Pearce	$18
No. 34		
No. 35		
No. 36	Miss Whitney	$ 8
No. 37	Randal Hayman	$14
No. 38	Arnold E. Jones & John C. Wilson Jun'	$20
No. 39	George Handy Sen'	$20
No. 40	Elizabeth Elzey	$20
No. 41	E. McGilliss & John H Anderson	$20
No. 42	George W. Jackson	$20
No. 43	John Woolford	$20
No. 44	Leah Gale & Leah Wilson	$20
No. 45	James Stewart	$20
No. 46	John H. Bell	$20
No. 47	John Stewarts Heirs	$20
No. 48	Heather Cottman	$18
No. 49	Robert Leatherbury	$12

Hopscotch Research Can Be Dangerous

Hopscotch research is fun, but it is a dangerous path. For inexperienced family historians it is an open invitation to crash into the dreaded brick wall. And, the worst hopscotching one can do is to try to link the known ancestor with someone several generations earlier, erroneously assuming that people of the same name are indeed the same person. On the Delmarva Peninsula it is fairly safe to presume that persons of the same surname are somehow related. But not always. Researchers are always so eager to get back one more generation that they often do skimpy research on an individual and the related family group because it seems obvious where the trail ends. Slow down. Take the research step by step.

Most records are created when the forebears were in their middle years—rearing and then marrying off their children, buying and selling land, taking care of parents, sitting on juries, going to court and paying taxes. Explore all these major records in the county where the ancestor has been located, paying strict attention to any clues which identify the community or "microarea" of the county, such as mention of roads or bodies of water which can be located on maps. Check land (deeds), probate (wills, inventories and accounts), court proceedings, taxes and marriage records. Ascertain who the ancestor's children married. Discern the ancestor's siblings, if possible, to obtain familiarity with in-laws' names. All or some of this information will be an aid to the previous generation. After the census, the most likely record to assist in achieving information to the previous generation is the deed. Look for grantor (seller) deeds in the county for your ancestor. In Maryland, it will tell you how the grantor obtained the land, perhaps by the will of his father, or as heir of his father if no will.

In most areas of the country, the ancestor may have lived in a dozen places between his birth in 1824 and when he was found 1880. In many locales, ancestors made three or more moves in their lifetimes. This is not the norm on the Peninsula. Most persons remained not only in the county where they were born, but in the same community in which their ancestors had always lived. Families also "took in" other family members to rear, under a variety of circumstances. Focus your research in the election district where the ancestor resided in the 1880 census. This is the first census which provides crucial information as to the relationship of the enumerated to the head of household.

In a search for one Levin Christopher Ross (1856-1906), whose name was recalled only as "Chris" by a granddaughter who never knew him, he is found as Christopher Ross, age 30, a cousin in the household of Alexander Furniss and Maria (Phoebus) his wife who resided in the Dames Quarter District of Somerset County. This clue was key to proving Ross' identity, as he was omitted from his father's will and had not resided with his father in either the 1860 or 1870 censuses. Another individual in the household was Alexine Phoebus, a niece age 38. The county marriage records indicated that Furniss had married Mariah Phoebus in 1861. A search of the Furniss family revealed no connection with any of Alexander Furniss' siblings to a Ross or a Phoebus. Mariah was found to be the daughter of Sarah Ross who married in 1816 Lewis Phoebus. In 1860 Mariah H. Phoebus was a teacher residing in the Hungary Neck household of a Levin Ross. After deed work, searching wills and marriage records, it was ascertained that Chris was the son of a Levin James Ross who had never lived with his father, either. Chris Ross' grandfather, another Levin (C.) Ross, had married twice, leaving his only child, Levin James Ross, an infant of eight months, to live with relatives in the Dames Quarter District while he moved to Hungary Neck District to reside near his second wife's family. Levin C. Ross was the sibling of Sarah Ross Phoebus, so it turned out that the designation of Chris Ross' as cousin in 1880 was that Maria Phoebus Furniss was the first cousin of his father. Alexine Phoebus turned out to be the daughter of Thomas Phoebus, a brother of Mariah's father, Lewis Phoebus, i.e., Mariah's first cousin, once removed, although they were contemporaries or "of an age" as used to be said on the Shore.

While this is a rather convoluted research story, and necessarily abbreviated, it does illustrate that one must investigate the microarea of the county of research, the necessity for investigation of inter-family relationships and the mandatory search of all records appertaining to any surname connected with that of the person the researcher seeks. Chances for success are much better using this method of microarea and inter-familial research than trying to hopscotch all over the county, running into brick walls and perhaps erroneously linking to the other Ross family in the county, who resided in East Princess Anne of Somerset County and adjoining Worcester County.

Dr. Ray Thompson, shown here with student Michael Schaefer, conducts summer class at Nabb Research Center.

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Salisbury, MD 21801-6861

Upcoming News and Events

U.K. Internet Research

Access to source records will no longer be restricted to those who can travel to the Society of Genealogists in London, England. In May the Society of Genealogists (www.sog.org.uk) announced that via Origins.net (www.origins.net) it will provide Internet access for a 10-year period to elements of its vast collection of indices and genealogical data. Origins.net is the sole provider of Internet access to the official genealogical data of Scotland, with records dating to 1553.

The Society's collections include thousands of source materials such as parish registers, bishops' transcripts, local history and a large collection of research notes on families. Records of interest to *Shoreline* readers include a 16 county index of marriages, 1538-1837, and wills from the Prerogative Court of Canterbury (PCC), the entries strongest for testators in the 16th and 17th centuries. Many sons of families in this time period immigrated to America in the 17th century.

The first of the databases will likely appear online late this year. See their Web site for further information.

Eastern Shore Events

September 2000

September 1-3 - Hard Crab Derby – Crisfield, MD
September 4 - 41st Annual Skipjack Races – Deal Island, MD
September 9 - Firemen's Muster – Salisbury, MD
September 9-10 - Nanticoke Indian Powwow – Millsboro, DE
September 10 - African-American Heritage Festival – Berlin, MD
September 30 - Pemberton Colonial Fair – Salisbury, MD

October 2000

October 1 - Fall Festival – Berlin, MD
October 7 - 28th Annual Oyster Festival – Chincoteague, VA
October 7-8 - Chesapeake Celtic Festival- Furnace Town, MD
October 14 - Pocomoke River Appreciation Festival Days – Snow Hill, MD
October 14-15 - 43rd Annual Olde Princess Anne Days – Princess Anne, MD

November 2000

November 4 - Punkin' Chunkin'- Sussex, DE
November 18-19 - Country Down Holiday Show – Berlin, MD
November 24-25 - 14th Annual Deborah Waterfowl Show – Berlin, MD
November 27 - Christmas Parade – Pocomoke City, MD

December 2000

December 1-7 - Berlin's Victorian Christmas – Berlin, MD
Source: Edward H. Nabb Research Center for Delmarva History and Culture's Calendar, Year 2000

Also of interest:

Saturday, September 23 - FUN Day, SSU 75th Anniversary Festival & Exhibits; Lankford Exhibit opens at Nabb Research Center

Donors Inundate Center with Support

The year 2000 is not only the dawn of a new century, but surely it will be recalled by Center advocates as a banner year for financial and material donations to the Nabb Research Center, and the year is only half over! We are overjoyed at the daily receipt of either funds or fabulous additions to and brand new collections to our holdings. Last issue we memorialized our treasured members and this edition we pay tribute to those persons without whose donations the Nabb Research Center would not be the premiere repository of Delmarva history and culture.

Elizabeth Anderson
Jeanne Anderton
George Bacon
Buxton Reed Bailey
Atwood Barwick
Richard Bebee
Howard Blair
Nestor Bleech
Sue Brittingham
Laura L. Brown
Anne Clay
David Coffin
Phyllis Cooper
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Suzanne Lankford Duncan
Dolores DuPont
Anne Christopher Feinstein
Thomas Fooks V
Patsy Freeman
Hazel Garland
Clement Gaskill
John H. Graham
Kent Griffith
Rob Hall
Edward Hammond
Catherine Hawthorne
R. Patrick Hayman
Augusta Heath
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Becky Hobson
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PRMC Junior Auxiliary
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Kaye Records
Harold Ricards Jr.
Evelyn Ruark
M/M Alan Russell
Cynthia Schaeffer
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Ed Smith
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Polly Stewart
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Pat Taylor
Talbot County Library
Charles Thornton
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Marelynn Zipser